

# MORNING FOLLOWS SHOUTS OF JOY BATTLES RAGING ON SEA AND LAND IN FAR EAST

## Six Hundred People Meet Horrible Death in New York Harbor.

### Excursion Steamer General Slocum Catches Fire—Most of the Victims Were Women and Children Going to a Sunday School Picnic—Agonizing Scenes on the Vessel.

New York, June 16.—Six hundred persons—men, women and children—at a conservative estimate, met death yesterday by the burning, beaching and sinking of the big three-decker excursion steamer General Slocum, which took fire in the East river near the entrance to Long Island sound, while on her way to a Sunday school picnic with more than a thousand excursionists—the Sunday school pupils of St. Mark's German Lutheran church, their relatives and friends.

At 1 o'clock this morning, according to a statement issued by Coroner O'Gorman, 483 bodies had been recovered from the destroyed vessel, burned to death or drowned, and found on the shores to which they had been washed, or picked up in the river, to which they had jumped or fallen from the burning vessel.

Tugs are arriving hourly with bodies from North Brother Island.

NEW YORK, June 15.—One of the most appalling disasters in the history of New York, tragic in its immensity, dramatic in its episodes, and deeply pathetic in the tender age of most of its victims, took place today in the East river, at the entrance to Long Island sound, within a short distance of the New York shore, and within sight of thousands of persons, the majority of whom were powerless to minimize the extent of the catastrophe.

By burning to the water's edge of the Slocum, a three-decker excursion steamer, the largest in these waters, more than 600 persons, the majority of whom were women and children, were burned to death or drowned by jumping overboard or by being thrown into the whirlpools by the lurching of the vessel, and the frantic rush of the panic-stricken passengers.

**Five Hundred Bodies Recovered.**

Approximately 500 bodies have been recovered and are now being tagged at the morgues of Bellevue hospital and Harbor. Divers were still busy at a late hour taking bodies from the hold of the vessel, which they say is choked with the remains of human bodies, while the bodies of scores who leaped or were thrown into the river have not been recovered.

It is the season of Sunday school excursions in New York bay and the Long Island sound, the latter one of the most picturesque bodies of water in the country.

Great preparations had been made for the seventeenth annual excursion of the Sunday school of St. Mark's German Lutheran church, the congregation of which is drawn from the dense population of the lower east and west sides, and the General Slocum had been chartered to carry the excursionists to Locust grove, one of the many resorts on Long Island sound.

**Boat Was Crowded.**

It is variously estimated that there were between 1,500 and 2,500 persons on board the General Slocum when she left the pier at Third street, East river, though the Knickerbocker Steamship company, which owns the Slocum, officially states that the number of passengers was 875, that being only one-third of the vessel's capacity. It is thought, however, that there were several hundred children in arms, for whom fares are not usually charged on these trips, on board.

The scene on the decks of the steamer as she proceeded up the East river was one of merry-making, customary on such occasions. The music of flags fluttered in the June breezes, the bands were playing and the children were singing, dancing and waving handkerchiefs and flags in answer to the salutations of those on shore or from passing steamers. At the extreme eastern end of Randall's island, at One Hundred and Thirty-fifth street, there is a stretch of water known as the Sunkens Meadows.

**Fire Broke Out.**

At this point, just as crowds were watching the gaily-decorated steamer from the shore, the General Slocum took fire, and as the age of this vessel was built in 1891—had resulted in the well-reasoning of the wood with which she was almost entirely built, she was soon a mass of flame.

The fire is said to have broken out in the lunch room on the forward deck, though the overturning of a pot of grease. The wind was high, and all efforts to subdue the fire were futile.

At 134th street there are several lumber yards and oil tanks, and as Captain William Van Schoick, in command of the General Slocum, started to turn his vessel toward the shore there, he was warned that it would set fire to the lumber and oil, so he changed his course for North Brother Island, and the twin island near the entrance to the sound, where the boat, partially burned, was beached. She sank near this place at 12:25 o'clock this afternoon, two hours and twenty-five minutes after the fire was first discovered, after after the fire was first discovered.

**Passengers Panic-Stricken.**

In the meantime the passengers had become panic-stricken and those who were not caught up by the flames rushed to the rear of the vessel and hundreds jumped overboard into the swirling churning waters.

The life preservers were too securely fastened to their holdings to be available and stories are told of frantic efforts made by strong men to cut them loose, but even if they could have been torn down they were too high up for the children to reach. It is also alleged that no attempt was made to get out the life apparatus at the first sign of fire. When Captain Van Schoick says that he immediately rang the bells for getting out the apparatus. According to several statements, no attempt was made to lower boats or life rafts.

**Horribly Dramatic.**

The race to North Brother Island was horribly dramatic. It was made worse by the flames, which had been fanned into a fury by the strong head wind, were consuming hundreds of persons old and young. The scene was one of frightful panic, with women and children jumping overboard and being lashed by the channel whirlpools against the vessel's sides. Women and children were crowded together on the hurricane deck, which soon burned away and fell, and it is believed that most of those on the deck were burned.

The after rail gave way, and the passengers who had crowded against

it were pushed into the river. Mothers and children became separated and frantically sought each other, while in several cases fathers and mothers, gathering their children together, jumped with them into the water. Little children, holding each other by the hand, jumped together and were afterwards found clasped in each other's arms. It is alleged that many women to escape, resulting in the tramping under foot of scores of children.

**Thrilling Rescues.**

During her flame-enveloped run to North Brother Island the General Slocum's whistles kept blowing for assistance, but before the whistles began to blow several tugs, the captains of which had seen the outbreak of the fire, started after the vessel, joined by a yacht, while row boats put out from the shore. The number of these craft constantly grew, and not the least dramatic incidents of the catastrophe were the efforts of the people on these boats to rescue those who had jumped overboard from the burning vessel. Men crawled to the rails of the tugs and sought up the drowning persons as they were borne by the current. There were many thrilling rescues by this means.

North Brother Island, where the vessel was beached, contains a scarlet fever ward. The patients who witnessed the disaster were ordered indoors, and the doctors hastened to the rescue of those who had been washed ashore, but some scores of persons died while they were being attended to. Captain Van Schoick and his two pilots, Edward Van Wart and Edward M. Weaver, have been arrested.

**Floating Charnel House.**

What looked like a big hatchway, on which were five or six charred bodies, was found floating in the cove at Hunter's Point, and loved, carefully alongside the Fidelity. The wood was badly charred and the bodies seemed to stick to it. The policemen and the crew of the Fidelity were unable to release the bodies without further mutilating them, and arrangements were made to hoist the hatchway with the bodies to it to the deck of the Fidelity. Among the boats that hurried to the succor of the stricken passengers were several tugs of the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad company, the auxiliary tugboat Easy Times, the health department tug Franklin Edson and the charities department steamer Massasoit. These, with a swarm of rowboats manned by willing hands, approached as near the blazing vessel as was possible, and rescued scores of people. The Franklin Edson cut so close to the burning steamer that her own paint was scorched. The crew of the tug, however, stuck bravely to their work and saved many women and children from a terrible death. The fire had possession of the boat from stem to stern by the time she was off One Hundred and Thirty-eighth street. The fireboat Zophar Mills was summoned from its mooring at the foot of East Ninety-ninth street, and was soon on the scene, its crew lending valuable aid in saving life.

**Crowds at the City Morgue.**

Tonight a surging crowd is held back by police lines formed about the city morgue at the foot of East Twenty-sixth street. The crowd began to gather as soon as it became known that the city that the dead would be brought to Manhattan from North Brother Island and other places where at first the dead bodies were found. When the Massasoit came to dock with eighty-five dead from the work of removing the bodies from the steamer proceeded slowly into the morgue room was found inside the vessel and the autopsy room was cleared and the blackened and distorted bodies were placed on the floor there.

When finally the morgue authorities allowed the crowd to enter the morgue a scene ensued which was harrowing in the extreme. In some cases first identification was found to have been erroneous, men laying claim to bodies they afterward discovered were not those of their relatives.

**Riot at the Pier.**

At the entrance to the charities pier at the foot of East Twenty-sixth street the crowd tonight tried to push past the police and a riot resulted. At the height of the trouble a man who had learned that his wife was among the dead tried to stab himself.

Inside the pier the bodies are ranged in three rows the entire length of the pier, about 150 feet.

It was a spectacle of horror beyond words to express—a great vessel all in flames, sweeping forward in the sunlight, within sight of the crowded city, while her helpless, screaming hundreds were roasted alive or swallowed up in the waves—women and children with their hair and clothing on fire; crazed mothers casting their babies overboard or keeping with them to certain death; wailing children and old men trampled under foot or crowded over into the water; and the burning steamboat, her whistle roaring for assistance, speeding on for the shore or North Brother Island with a trail of ghastly faces and clutching hands in the tide behind her; gray haired mothers and tender infants going down to death together.

There are stories of rotten life preservers and of life preservers placed out at reach; of the failure of the crew to fight the fire and of the captain's mistake in not heading for the nearest land, but few know exactly what hap-

pened in that terrible scene of suffering and death, for many of the survivors are practically insane and hundreds of others are in the hospitals.

**Excursion an Event of the Year.**

St. Mark's Lutheran church contained in its membership practically all those Germans of the Protestant faith within a radius of ten square blocks. The excursion was the event of the year, for scores of well-to-do German families, and had been looked forward to for many months. Family parties of ten or more had been made up, including in many cases the old grandmother, the mother and the children of all ages, with a sprinkling of those of the families who could spare a day from their work.

A bureau of information was opened in the church shortly after the first news of the catastrophe was received, and ever since has been a constant stream of agonized men, women and children climbing the steps to get news of their relatives and friends. As soon as news is received as to survivors it is posted outside.

Rev. J. G. Schultz, assistant pastor of the church, called at the temporary morgue tonight and identified the body of Anna Haas, wife of the pastor of the church. Dr. Haas was rescued. His daughter Gertrude perished.

So far as known tonight only one of the crew of the General Slocum lost his life. This was Michael McGrath, the steward of the steamer, whose body has been recovered. When he jumped overboard he had with him, according to Captain Van Schoick, \$500 or \$600. The money could not be found when his clothing was searched.

**Crew Held as Witnesses.**

The members of the crew of the burned steamer who are under arrest are being held simply as witnesses. They are Captain Van H. Van Schoick, Pilot Edward Van Wart, Second Pilot Edward N. Weaver, W. W. Twombly, a deck hand; Henry Canfield, a cook; Edwin Robinson, a cook, and James Woods, a cook.

All of these men had been overboard and were suffering from exposure and in some cases from burns.

Brother Berry had them all sent to Lebanon hospital, with the exception of Pilot Van Wart, who was paroled.

After questioning all the witnesses, including Captain Van Schoick and five of his crew, who appeared before him in the Alexander Avenue station, Coroner Joseph T. Berry made the following statement tonight:

"From all the evidence which has been produced before me, I am of the opinion that the fire started in the storage room on the starboard side of the boat forward. There were stored in the room oils, paints, old rope, camp stools, lumber and other dunnage of a highly inflammable nature. This material was such as any ship is compelled to carry, and so far as its presence is concerned, I do not know that the ship's owners are guilty of neglect.

"The first warning of danger came with a volume of black smoke which

came through the forward stairways. The fire alarm was undoubtedly promptly sounded. William M. Tremblay, a deck hand, has told me that when the crew responded to fire quarters and manner the hose there was no water. It appears that the efforts of the crew were futile on account of the panic which ensued. The fire spread so quickly that the supports of the upper decks burned away and collapsed.

"Before the crew can be cleared of responsibility it must be established that the fire started from spontaneous combustion in the inflammable material in the storage room."

**Identified Dead.**

Abendeschin, Mary.  
Allman, Lena.  
Armstrong, Mrs. Barbara.  
Albrecht, Selma.  
Bachman, Margaret (infant).  
Baker, Catherine A.  
Bernhardt, Annie (infant).  
Bernhardt, Annie (child).  
Blum, Mrs. Anna.  
Blum, Margaret.  
Beck, Christina.  
Behrens, Mrs. Augusta.  
Berg, Mrs. Lena.  
Birmingham, Katherine.  
Boyer, Florence (child).  
Bozward, Emily.  
Brown, Alfonso.  
Buchanan, Mrs. Anna Eliza.  
Burfield, John J. (infant).  
Cox, Mary.  
Cordes, Florence (child).  
Dengler, Adolph, Jr. (child).  
Deppert, Agnes.  
Dierke, Theodore (child).  
Dickoff, William.  
Dreher, (child).  
Fannon, Mids.  
Drews, Mrs. Catherine.  
Erhart, Minnie (child).  
Eliel, Joseph (child).  
Eberhardt, Minnie (child).  
Engelman, Mrs. Louise.  
Erick, William.  
Frosch, Mrs. Charles.  
Fritz, Mrs. Alma.  
Fickelbusch, (infant).  
Feldhausen.  
Geisler, Edith.

(Continued on Page Two.)



Both Licked, But Both Happy.

## PARKER GETS MORE DELEGATES HURT ON "LOOP LOOP"

State Convention of Arkansas and Mississippi Instruct for the New York Jurist—Meeting of the National Sub-Committee at St. Louis.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., June 15.—The Democratic state convention today instructed for Alton B. Parker as the choice of the Arkansas Democracy for presidential candidate. The vote was Parker, 234; Hoar, 124.

**CHAIRMAN DISCUSSED.**

Meeting of Democratic National Committee at St. Louis.

St. Louis, June 15.—The sub-committee on arrangements of the national Democratic committee previous to the convention met today and discussed the selection of a temporary chairman of the convention. Among those whose names have been suggested in connection with the honor are Theodore E. Barker of Michigan, Senator Bailey of Texas, Senator Bacon of Georgia, Governor Beckham of Kentucky, Mayor Rose of Milwaukee, Congressman John Sharp Williams of Mississippi and National Committee member J. M. Head of Tennessee. Senator Stone of Missouri was suggested, but declined.

The committee agreed to recommend National Committeeman A. Walsh of Iowa as temporary secretary of the convention and John L. Martin of St. Louis as temporary sergeant-at-arms. The matter of temporary chairman of the convention will be considered again tomorrow.

It was decided to hold the next adjourned meeting of the sub-committee on arrangements on July 2. The full national committee will meet here on July 4.

**WILL BRING SUIT.**

Spanish Filipino Bank Declares the "Conant Notes" Illegal.

Manila, June 15.—The Spanish-Filipino bank claims that the issuance of the new currency or what is generally known here as the "Conant notes" is illegal and it will, it is stated, bring suit against the federal government, alleging that under the treaty of Paris ceding the Philippines to the United States the bank has the exclusive right to issue bills which shall circulate as money in the islands.

The proposed internal revenue law for the Philippine islands provides that a tax of 12 per cent shall be put upon a bank's

note issues in excess of its capital stock. The Spanish-Filipino bank also is opposed to this, claiming that the position of the bank under American sovereignty is analogous to that of the trustees of Dartmouth college. After the American revolution the matter will be taken before the authorities at Washington.

**PRIZES AWARDED.**

Princeton, N. J., June 15.—Among the prizes announced at the university commencement today were:

Class of 1887 university fellowship, \$200, William J. Sinclair of California.  
Chancellor Green, mental science fellowship, \$500, Edward Harbarger, Butler, Tacoma, Washington.

**BODY FOUND IN SAND.**

Reno, Nev., June 15.—The body of W. F. Tinsman of Chicago, one of the victims of the river tragedy at Loughs Springs of a month ago, was found imbedded in the sand by an Indian near this place.

## Vladivostok Squadron is Fighting a Japanese Fleet.

### General Stakelberg Holding His Position Near Vafangow and Has Repulsed the Japanese Army With Considerable Loss.

LONDON, JUNE 16.—A DISPATCH TO THE DAILY EXPRESS FROM TOKIO, DATED JUNE 15, SAYS NEWS HAS BEEN RECEIVED THERE, BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALLY PUBLISHED, OF A GREAT JAPANESE VICTORY NEAR PUCHOU, ON THE RAILWAY, SEVENTY MILES NORTH OF PORT ARTHUR. THE RUSSIANS, IT IS ADDED, WERE OVERWHELMED, LOST A THOUSAND MEN, LEFT ALL THEIR GUNS ON THE FIELD AND RETREATED IN DISORDER.

THE DAILY CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT AT TOKIO CABLES THE SAME NEWS, ADDING THAT THE RUSSIANS, TO THE NUMBER OF 7,000 MEN, ARE NOW IN FULL FLIGHT TOWARD TSHI CHIAO AND KAI CHOU.

LIAO YANG, JUNE 15.—THE BATTLE AT VAFANGOW LASTED TILL 8 O'CLOCK YESTERDAY EVENING. THE JAPANESE IN TREMENDOUS FORCE ATTACKED THE RUSSIAN POSITION, BUT WERE REPULSED WITH TERRIBLE LOSS. IT IS REPORTED THAT THREE SQUADRONS OF JAPANESE DRAGOONS WERE ABSOLUTELY WIPE OUT AND THAT SIXTY MEN WERE CAPTURED. THE RUSSIAN LOSSES WERE 311 MEN. COLONEL KHVASTEROFF, COMMANDING THE FIRST INFANTRY REGIMENT, WAS KILLED.

ACCORDING TO THE LATEST REPORTS RECEIVED HERE THE RUSSIAN TROOPS WERE ATTACKING THE JAPANESE AT 6 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING, BUT NO PARTICULARS ARE OBTAINABLE.

Tokio, June 15.—(7:30 p. m.)—Three Japanese transports, outward bound from Shimonoeki met the Russian warships this morning outside the Strait of Korea. The Russians fired eighteen shots at the Japanese ships. One transport escaped. The fate of the other two is not known. It is believed at Sasebo that a naval engagement is imminent.

London, June 15.—A dispatch to the Central News from Tokio, filed at 6 p. m. today, says:

"A dispatch just received from Moji says the cannonading at sea stopped at 1 p. m. There was a heavy sea in the straits all day. Ten Japanese merchant steamers are known to have left various ports for Moji, and there is much anxiety about their fate."

It is rumored tonight that the Russian warships have gone eastward.

London, June 15.—The correspondent of the Central News at Liao Yang telegraphed today as follows:

"The fighting at Vafangow (about fifty-five miles north of Port Arthur) was renewed today and is still proceeding. No details are obtainable, but there are persistent rumors that the Russians were partly successful, destroying three squadrons of cavalry and making prisoners of sixty men. The Russian casualties in the fighting yesterday were 308 men killed or wounded. The Japanese casualties are not known."

"Later a section of Russian cavalry marching in the direction of Tafen Chou and Lun Koo discovered on its right flank a great force of Japanese cavalry. An engagement ensued and, according to the latest dispatches, fighting is proceeding all along the line, the Japanese having received reinforcements from Vafangow consisting of three infantry divisions with artillery and cavalry."

TOKIO, June 15, 3:30 p. m.—Reports of cannonading have been received here from various points, such as Chikuzen province, Iki island and Fushing, but the exact nature of the operations of the Russian Vladivostok squadron is not disclosed. It is possible that the Russian vessels surprised and captured three Japanese transports which left Shimonoeki today for the army bases in Korea and China. The course of the vessels would take them close to the coast of the Russian ships were seen. It is possible also that the Russians are pursuing merchantmen and the cannonading reports is a result of such pursuits.

The Japanese warships in the vicinity are hurrying to the scene. Sasebo is being closed. There is a strong possibility of a naval engagement, which will take place soon. No southern Japanese city is exposed to attack, but this Russian raid may prove expensive to shipping.

Tokio, June 15, 6 p. m.—It is reported here that the Japanese protected cruiser Nittaka engaged the Russian Vladivostok squadron off Tsu island. In the straits between Korea and Japan. This report, however, lacks confirmation.

The Japanese transports Ugo and Fuyo, homeward bound, met the Russian vessels this morning near Iki island. The Russians pursued them and fired sixteen shots at the Japanese ships. The transports escaped and reached Katsunoto.

Stakelberg's purpose, the correspondent of the Associated Press learns, is mainly intended to discourage the landing of a fourth Japanese army, which the authorities have reason to believe is planned, on the west coast of the Liao Tung peninsula near New Chuang, whence it could co-operate with General Kuroki's advance upon Liao Tung. The Japanese failure to follow up the bombardment of the Kai Chou and Suen Chen coast by a disembarkation is believed to be a consequence of the development of Stakelberg's position.

**No Anxiety Manifested.**

Although the Japanese forward movement from Sui Yen to take Stakelberg in the rear looks extremely dangerous, the war office does not manifest anxiety at the prospect of Stakelberg's communications being cut, saying that at least six days' march of the Japanese are necessary to reach a position commanding the Russian lines, over which the Russians, in case of necessity, could easily retire.

No further news has been received of the advance north of the Russian line, and it is still considered to be no more than a demonstration.

Little importance is attached to the appearance of 3,000 Japanese near Hun Jen Sian, the country being too wild and desolate to permit of the march of a large force.

**RUMORS OF FIGHTING.**

Russians at New Chuang Celebrating Alleged Victory.

New Chuang, June 14, 10 p. m.—(Delayed in transmission.)—There are persistent rumors here of severe fighting south of Kln Chou, which it is impossible to confirm. Of three trustworthy messengers sent out on the night of June 12, two returned, having been unable to pass the Russian lines at Kai Chou, and the other is expected to arrive early tomorrow. The two who have returned learned nothing of fighting. The messengers have been more strict about allowing natives to pass through their lines.

Twenty hospital carts passed here this morning, traveling southward.

The trains are only running six miles south of Kai Chou.

A report upon the very highest authority, direct from Mukden, says there are over 20,000 Russian troops there, with 40,000 additional men encamped at Liao Yang.

It is believed here that the Russians are moving a force of 50,000 men south only to make it appear as though they were attempting to relieve Port Arthur, and that upon the first encounter with the enemy it will be withdrawn north.

A private telegram received here by a German resident late this afternoon from Chetow said that the Japanese sufficient force to successfully oppose the enemy. The authorities here have successfully concealed up to this time the number of Russian troops on the peninsula.

It now develops that Stakelberg's

**GREAT EXCITEMENT.**

Russia Waiting For News of Victory or Defeat.

St. Petersburg, June 15.—(4:50 p. m.)—Not since the battle began had such excitement been apparent at the war and naval ministries as reigned there today. With the encounter between the opposing fleets imminent and heavy fighting in progress south of Vafangow (Liao Tung peninsula, about fifty-five miles north of Port Arthur, and along the line established by the Japanese reaching across the peninsula from Pitsevo to Port Adams), news from the land and sea was awaited with feverish anxiety. The general belief was that the Japanese force which attacked Major General Goin, gross division yesterday was the advance force of General Neso's entire army of nearly 50,000 men. General Baron Stakelberg, who commands the First Siberian corps, is personally directing the operations at the front, but it is believed that the major portion of his corps is too far north to render effective support.

**Battle Still Rages.**

Stakelberg's dispatch given out last night came direct to the emperor. Nothing further, so far ascertainable, has been received thus far either from Stakelberg or General Kurapatin. Both sides retained their positions after the encounter yesterday, when the fighting was of the most desperate character. It is not known whether or not exists here that the adversaries brought up all the supports possible during the height of the battle and that it was resumed this morning. But with the whole Third army behind General Nosa there is apprehension that Stakelberg may be unable to get together a sufficient force to successfully oppose the enemy. The authorities here have successfully concealed up to this time the number of Russian troops on the peninsula.

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